

Finance Committee Meeting Minutes
November 18, 2006

Present: Al DeVito – Chair, Brian Athearn, Sharon Estrella, Richard Knabel, Skip Manter.

Guests: Glenn Hearn, Barbara & Robert Day, Chuck Hodgkinson, Hermine Hull, Greg Orcott, Jonathan Revere (as videographer).

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. at the Howe's House.

Ms. Rogers not being present, Mr. Knabel agreed to take minutes.

The Chairman read opening remarks regarding the reason for the meeting and its conduct.

The Committee members then shared reading the 14 warrant articles for the November 28, 2006 STM, and the recommendations of the Committee.

The Chairman asked for comments regarding the structure of the meeting, which he characterized as an experiment to better inform the voters before a town meeting. Mr. Hearn complimented the Committee for its efforts, and said he had comments on some of the actions taken by the Committee. Other comments were positive about having such meetings.

The Committee went into a brief recess before reconvening at 10:45 to consider approving final wording for FY'08 budget letters to be included with other budget materials being distributed by town accountant Bruce Stone. Two letters drafted by Mr. Knabel were approved by consensus: one letter for the town's five largest departments, which requires a plan for implementation of goals, and the other to go to all other town departments. Both letters contained a request for departments having responsibility for building maintenance to submit a projected three-year maintenance schedule, with estimated costs, for consideration with their operating budgets. The budget materials will be distributed during the week of November 20, 2006.

The Committee went into recess at 11:20 pending a 12:00 luncheon meeting with the finance committees of Chilmark and Aquinnah.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Knabel